

REMARKS:

Claims 1-27 were presented for examination and were pending in this application. In an Official Action dated August 8th, 2005, claims 11-15 and 18 were allowed, claims 16 and 17 were objected to, claims 1-10 were rejected, and claims 19-27 were subjected to a restriction and/or election requirement. Applicants thank Examiner for examination of the claims pending in this application and addresses Examiner's comments below.

Claims 1-10 and 19-27 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The claims have been amended and/or cancelled to expedite the prosecution of the application in a manner consistent with the Patent Office Business Goals, 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (Sept. 8, 2000). In canceling these claims, Applicants have not and do not narrow the scope of the protection to which Applicants consider the claimed invention to be entitled and do not concede that the subject matter of such claims was in fact disclosed or taught by the cited prior art. Rather, Applicants reserve the right to pursue such protection at a later point in time and merely seek to pursue protection for the subject matter presented in this submission.

Response to Objection

In the 29th paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to claims 16 and 17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but notes that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Claims 16 and 17 depend directly or indirectly on claims allowed by the examiner, claims 15, 13, and 11 (claim 17 depending from claim 16). In the subsequently mailed Advisory Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 11-18 are allowed, therefore Applicants understand that this objection has now been withdrawn.

Clarification Regarding Claim 18

In the 30th paragraph of the Office Action, the Examiner allows claims 11-15 and 18. Applicants thank the Examiner for this consideration. This action is appropriately reflected on the Office Action Summary, as claim 18 is listed among the claims that are allowed. However, on the Office Action Summary page the Examiner has also indicated that claims 18-27 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. In the subsequently mailed Advisory Action the Examiner has indicated that claims 11-18 are allowed. Accordingly, Applicants understand that this inconsistency was due to a clerical error and that claim 18 is indeed allowed.

Conclusion

In sum, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 through 18, as presented herein, are in condition for allowance. All other rejections and objection are now withdrawn or moot in view of Applicants' cancellations of claim 1-10 and Examiner's indications of allowance of claims 11-18. Accordingly, Applicants kindly request prompt allowance of claims 11-18.

In addition, Applicants respectfully invite Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the number provided below if Examiner believes it will help expedite furtherance of this application.

Respectfully Submitted,
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By: 

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